

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE
October 29 - November 5, 2014

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1. U.S.-China Relationship Will Shape 21st Century, Kerry Says (11-04-2014)

Washington — The United States' security and prosperity are closely and increasingly linked to the Asia-Pacific region, Secretary of State John Kerry told an audience in Washington on November 4, and a key component of the Obama administration's rebalance to Asia is strengthening U.S.-China relations.

Speaking at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Kerry said that "a stronger relationship between our two nations will benefit not just the United States and China, not just the Asia-Pacific, but the world."

He called the U.S.-China relationship "the most consequential in the world today" and said that it will do much to shape the 21st century.

U.S. policy toward China is built on constructively managing differences, Kerry said, and on constructively coordinating efforts on the wide range of issues where the interests of both nations are aligned.

Kerry recapped U.S. positions on current differences:

- Maritime security: The United States does not take a position on specific claims in the China Sea disputes, but it has an interest in how these claims are pursued and if they align with international law.
- Cybersecurity: The United States objects to cyber-enabled theft of trade secrets and other sensitive information and is committed to using an open and frank dialogue to help build trust and develop common rules of the road on this pressing economic and security challenge.
- Human rights: The United States will always advocate for all countries to permit their citizens to express their grievances freely, publicly, peacefully and without fear of retribution.

“The United States will never shy away from articulating our deeply held values or defending our interests, our allies, and our partners throughout the region,” Kerry said. “Our differences will undoubtedly continue to test our relationship. ... But they should not, and in fact, must not prevent us from acting cooperatively in other areas.”

Those areas include two-way trade, now valued at nearly \$600 billion in goods and services annually; global security concerns; climate change, especially the development of the clean-energy sector; nuclear nonproliferation, particularly on the Korean Peninsula; Afghanistan; and global health.

“We’re very grateful that China has committed more than \$130 million to date in aid and supplies to help address the Ebola crisis,” Kerry said.

“The bottom line is this,” the secretary summarized. “The United States and China comprise one-quarter of the global population. We make up one-third of the global economy. We generate one-fifth of global trade. And when we are pulling in the same direction on any issue, we can bend the curve in a way that few other nations on Earth can accomplish.”

Expanding people-to-people connections, especially through student exchanges, can be particularly effective in forging bonds of common understanding between Americans and Chinese, he said.

“Our two nations face a genuine test of leadership. We have to make the right choices in both Washington and Beijing,” Kerry said. “We actually do have the opportunity as two leading powers to find solutions to major challenges facing the world today. ... We have an opportunity to demonstrate how a major power and an emerging power can cooperate to serve the interests of both, and in doing so, improve the prospects for stability, prosperity, and peace around the equator, from pole to pole, throughout this world we live in.”

Related Sites:

[Kerry on U.S.-China Relations](#)

2. Ambassador Baer on Illegitimate Elections in Eastern Ukraine (11-03-2014)

United States Mission to the OSCE

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel Baer to the Permanent Council, Vienna

On the so-called “elections” in Luhansk and Donetsk

The United States strongly condemns the holding of yesterday’s illegitimate, so-called local “elections” that contravene Ukraine’s laws and constitution and contradict the September 5 Minsk

Protocol. Despite the uniform concern voiced by the international community over the proposed holding of these so-called elections, Russia failed to act in line with the agreement it signed less than two months ago, in order to prevent yesterday's actions that only seek to undermine a stable, united, and prosperous Ukraine. In so doing, Russia proved that it continues to act in defiance of international law and the fundamental norms of international behavior that have underpinned peace and security in Europe for over a generation.

Mr. Chair, while the government of Ukraine and the international community have arduously sought to secure a path towards Ukraine's stable future, in contrast Russia chose to escalate once again. Yesterday marked the initiation of yet another phase of Russia's escalatory, intolerable, and illegal actions in Ukraine. While the Russian Federation may claim to seek a peaceful outcome in Ukraine, the commitments it signs are rendered meaningless when it conducts actions that directly undermine Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Let me be clear: The United States will not recognize these so-called elections and reaffirms that the only legitimate local elections in eastern Ukraine will be held on December 7, as prescribed by the Special Status Law signed by President Poroshenko for parts of Donetsk and Luhansk, and in keeping with the Protocol that the separatists signed with Ukraine and Russia in Minsk, on September 5.

Let's also be clear: A piece of political theater produced by intimidation, Russian weapons, and root vegetables, does not confer legitimacy on anyone. Russia, as a signatory to Minsk, and as an instigator of the violence and conflict, should cease escalation and support implementation of Minsk, including of monitoring of the international border and real local elections consistent with Ukrainian law on December 7.

As a signatory of the Minsk Protocol, we call on Russia to join the Secretary General of the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, and the international community in condemning the illegitimate elections held yesterday. As President Obama stated, we also caution Russia against using any such illegitimate vote as a pretext to insert additional troops and military equipment into Ukraine, particularly in light of recent indications that the Russian military is moving forces back to the border along the separatist-controlled areas of eastern Ukraine.

Mr. Chair, we also express grave concern over the increased ceasefire violations conducted by separatists yesterday, particularly around Mariupol. I took note of Ambassador Apakan's report, which highlighted instances of separatists attacking SMM assets in exactly the area where the ceasefire violations are occurring.

We urge Russia and the separatists it backs to fulfill all of their commitments under the Minsk agreements. We reiterate the fundamental importance of safeguarding the stability of Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Related Statements:

[White House on Separatist 'Elections' in Eastern Ukraine](#) (10-31-2014)

[NATO Secretary-General on 'Elections' in Eastern Ukraine](#) (10-31-2014)

[Defense Dept. Press Briefing Excerpts on ISIL, Ukraine, Ebola](#) (10-31-2014)

[White House on Illegal Elections in Eastern Ukraine](#) (11-03-2014)

[Ambassador Baer's Response to Head of Ukraine Monitoring Mission](#) (11-03-2014)

3. Dempsey Discusses Leadership at Syracuse University (11-02-2014)

By Jim Garamone
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, 2014 – You don't get to be the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff without learning something about leadership along the way.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey has been a leader at every military level throughout his 40-year career and he shared some of his insights with civilian and military students at Syracuse University in Central New York on Friday.

Leadership is More Than Giving Orders

Leadership is more than simply ordering people to do something. "You might try to bludgeon your way through, but it doesn't work well," the chairman said.

Dempsey gave the students a couple of tools to place in their toolboxes as they prepare for service in national security.

Leaders, he said, must get used to the fact that they are going to be asked to do more than one thing at a time. Leaders have to prioritize and junior leaders cannot rely on senior leaders to always set the agenda. "What is a priority today may not be tomorrow, and you have to be prepared for that," Dempsey said.

He noted that if he had visited Syracuse last year, no one would be talking about Ebola or Crimea or the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Leaders Present Solutions To Problems

He told the students to not simply pass a problem up the chain to the boss, but to pass it with a recommendation. This is just another way to say that leaders have to be agile in their thinking and actions.

The chairman discussed risk. "Making decisions as a leader involves risk, and that risk is either manageable or not depending on how you deal with it," he said. "It's not a leader's job to prevent risk, rather it is the leader's job to enable subordinates to take risks."

Every action has risk and there is no way to drive risk to zero, he said. Risk should not paralyze action.

Candor is a trait all must have. "If there's more truth in the hallway, than in the meeting room, you've got problems," Dempsey said.

He urged them to speak truth to power, and for leaders to not be afraid of disagreements.

Dempsey stated that competence and character are needed in equal measure. Leaders can't have one without the other. "Competence will get you to the table, but character is what keeps you at the table," he said.

Humility Matters

The chairman also discussed humility. He quoted an old saying that “you can get a lot done in Washington if you don’t care who gets credit.” He called it a truism of life in government. “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking less about yourself,” he said. “You should be optimistic, you should be ambitious, you should be self-confident.”

He urged the students to be approachable. “The best of our leaders are extremely approachable,” he said. Put people at ease and listen to what they have to say.

And he urged the students to never stop learning. Abraham Lincoln wrote long before he became president “I will study and prepare, and perhaps my day will come.”

“Commit to be a life-long learner, and if history calls on you, you will be prepared,” he said.

Dempsey ended with a quote from William Butler Yeats: “Talent perceives differences. Genius perceives unity.”

He said that right now the people of the United States perceive the differences among us all too easily. “You can’t miss the differences that separate us,” he said. “Genius perceives unity. Genius is what allows us to come together. That’s what this country does. That’s what sets us apart.”

He told the students to look around the room and note the differences. “I travel all around the world and I would never see an audience like this – men and women, different races, different religions – sitting here. You would never see an audience like this anywhere else in the world,” he said.

“That’s the genius of the American Dream,” he said. “You need to see genius, meaning you need to find unity. And if you do that, this country will be fine.”

Biographies:

[Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey](#)

Related Articles:

[Dempsey Discusses 'Strategy in the Open' at Syracuse Event](#) (11-01-2014)

Related Sites:

[The Defense Department on Facebook](#)

[The Defense Department on Twitter](#)

[DoD News on Facebook](#)

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[DoD News Broadcast Channel](#)

4. President Obama Speaks with Troops Deployed in Operation United Assistance (11-01-2014)

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1, 2014 – President Barack Obama has spoken with service personnel working to stop the spread of Ebola in West Africa to offer his profound gratitude for their role in Operation United Assistance.

Here is the statement released by the White House:

The President spoke by phone on Saturday afternoon with U.S. service members in Liberia and Senegal taking part in Operation United Assistance, the U.S. military mission to contain the Ebola outbreak at its source.

The President, on behalf of the American people, offered his profound gratitude to the dedicated men and women providing logistics support, engineering expertise, construction services, and other elements needed to bring the epidemic under control. The President underscored that the civilian-led, whole of government strategy to tackle Ebola on the frontlines is the most effective way to prevent further spread of the disease and protect the American people from additional cases at home. He concluded the call by noting that, while we must not relent in this campaign, initial signs of progress in Liberia were a testament to the skill and determination of these service members and their civilian counterparts. Their service embodies American leadership at its finest.

Related Sites:

[Special Report: DoD Helps Fight Ebola in West Africa - Operation United Assistance](#)
[Officials List Medical Protocols for DoD Civilians](#)

5. Kerry Television Interview on Global Issues (10-31-2014)

Secretary of State Kerry Interview with Al Hunt of Bloomberg News on the Charlie Rose Show

QUESTION: We're here with the Secretary of State John Kerry. Welcome, Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY KERRY: I'm delighted to be with you. I'm honored to be with you on your first outing here.

QUESTION: Well, thank you for joining us.

SECRETARY KERRY: Thank you.

QUESTION: We have so much to talk about. The deadline for the Iranian nuclear negotiations is November 24. What are the odds of having a deal by then or being close enough to have an extension?

SECRETARY KERRY: I honestly can't give you odds, and I wouldn't. I think – I'm hopeful, but it's a very tough negotiation. There are still gaps that are fairly wide on a number of subjects.

QUESTION: Are you getting closer?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, we're closer than we were a week ago or 10 weeks ago, but we're still with big gaps, Al. We have critical weeks ahead of us. I think the stakes for the world are enormous. I hope the Iranians will not get stuck in a tree of their own making on one demand or another in order to try to find a way together. And we're hopeful. We'll do our best, but we have to close off all pathways to a nuclear weapon, and we have to have enough breakout time in order to be able to guarantee the security of everybody who is concerned about this.

QUESTION: In those – in these next three and a half weeks, do you have any plans to meet with high-level Iranians on this issue?

SECRETARY KERRY: Oh, absolutely. We're going to have (inaudible).

QUESTION: So you'll have meetings in the next couple weeks?

SECRETARY KERRY: Yes, I will. I am meeting on the 9th of November. I will be meeting with the foreign minister directly. We'll have two days. We will be beginning a slog of going into the last two weeks. Our expert team will be on the ground with a constant process. We'll be in Vienna for the final days with the P5+1, all of us together trying to come to some kind of an agreement.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, there are reports that the Iranians believe – they've indicated to some people that their leverage has been enhanced in these negotiations because of their role in fighting ISIS. Is that a correct reading?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, let me use this program to deliver a very clear message to the Iranians, which is: This is not a political decision for us. This is a substantive decision based on the proof of a peaceful program. It's not hard to prove your program is peaceful if that's what you want to do. So outside leverage, Syria, ISIL, whatever, is not relevant to this. It's not affecting us one way or the other. We have one set of criteria within our mind.

There are four pathways to a nuclear weapon. One is the secret underground facility known as Fordow, one is the Natanz enrichment facility that is known to everybody, a sort of well-identified building. The third is the Arak, as it is called, plutonium heavy water reactor. And the fourth is the covert, whatever you aren't sure of because it's not clear to you, and therefore you need sufficient verification and sufficient transparency to be able to determine that there isn't that path being pursued. That's things like, for instance, knowing you have an eye on the production of uranium and how much uranium and where it's going and how many centrifuges and these kinds of things.

So those four pathways need to be closed off. We're looking to the Iranians to be as responsible as they have said they will be and as forthcoming as they have promised, which is to be transparent and allow the proof of this peaceful program.

QUESTION: You talked about ISIL. Let me just ask you a few questions about that. It's been several months since President Obama promised to degrade and destroy the Islamic terrorists. You have said repeatedly this is going to be a long fight. But over those several months, is there any indication that they have really been degraded?

SECRETARY KERRY: Oh, absolutely. There's a clarity to that. I mean, they have a limited supply of the heavy weapons that they captured when they routed portions of the Iraqi army and as they marched through Anbar province. We have been, day by day, destroying those.

QUESTION: So you think they're a lot weaker than they were a month or two ago?

SECRETARY KERRY: There's no question in my mind that they have been stopped in their momentum. That was target number one. Target number one – the point is, Al, there's a very clear strategy which the President is implementing. The first part of that strategy was to make sure we had a government to work with in Iraq. And the President made it clear he was not going to engage in strikes and in a major effort until we knew we were on that path. Successfully, the Iraqis have chosen a new government, and that new government is working diligently to help resuscitate the Iraqi army itself, to put new generals in, to reconstitute it, and to help marshal outside forces in the coalition that have come together to help them.

The second part of it is to begin to stop ISIL where it was gaining particular momentum at – like at Sinjar Mountain or in Mosul or at the Haditha Dam or Amirli where they were laying siege. Each one of those we successfully stopped. And in addition, we have begun to take strikes to their command and control headquarters, to their oil production facilities which they use to sell to get money. And step by step, that is going to deteriorate their command and control, their training centers, their supplies. This is a long haul. I've said that from the beginning.

QUESTION: One of the keys is to choke off their money. They are the best financed terrorist group --

SECRETARY KERRY: (Inaudible) terrorist group --

QUESTION: -- in the history of the world, I suppose.

SECRETARY KERRY: They are.

QUESTION: Up to \$500 million a year by some estimates. How can you choke that off, or can you choke most of that off?

SECRETARY KERRY: We're working on the measures that need to be taken in concert with many other countries to close down avenues for banking, for transfers; to identify people who are large donors and to block that, and also to identify the means by which they're collecting money in smaller sums but from larger numbers of people.

All of these avenues are being pursued. In addition, we're pursuing a de-legitimization effort that involves the grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, for instance, the council on Saudi Arabia that issues fatwas, the imams, clerics, ayatollahs, people all across Islam who are speaking out to discredit any claims whatsoever that ISIL has made with respect to its so-called legitimacy with respect to Islam. That's a major, major step.

QUESTION: You put together that coalition, most importantly the Arab countries. How much are they going to pay for this war, the Sunni countries?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, the --

QUESTION: Are they delivering?

SECRETARY KERRY: There's not a specific sum, but there is a pretty open-ended commitment by a lot of countries to do whatever it takes in order to guarantee that ISIL is defeated. And that includes Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, others in the region who are deeply committed to this effort. And they've proven it. They've put themselves online in ways that they never have before. We have said this will take time, and it will take time. But I am convinced that – because every country in the region is threatened, and countries that aren't directly in the region. Even Russia that has been supporting Assad, for instance, knows that there are about a thousand Chechens in Syria fighting with ISIL, and that's a threat to them.

QUESTION: So it's in their interest. And I just – we are putting together – we're helping to put together a – some kind of coalition government in Iraq because that's essentially, you have said, to this fight. Is it at all possible to think about that in Syria? Is it at all possible to maybe have the

Russians and the Iranians, acting in their own interest, to put together some kind of coalition there to take on ISIL that would maybe involve Assad and the Free Syrians?

SECRETARY KERRY: We are talking with the Russians and we have raised the subject with the Saudi Arabians and others in the region about how we can deal with Syria in a more concerted way. It is greatly complicated, obviously, by Assad, who is the magnet for most of these fighters coming in. They came there originally to fight Assad. And for a number of different reasons, that broadened into this other entity, into ISIL. But ISIL isn't alone in presenting a threat to the region or to Assad. You have al-Nusrah, you have Ahrar al-Sham, you have a number of different groups there, but they've all come to take on Assad. And the bottom line is you will not have peace in Syria ultimately as long as Assad remains the focus of power and the center magnet, if you will, for extremism. It's impossible to envision that.

I think the Russians and the Iranians actually deeply down understand that. The question now is: How do you focus on Iraq first, stop them from growing in Syria, then begin to bring more pressure to bear on them in Syria? But it will not take away the fundamental notion within much of the region that Assad ultimately has got to go --

QUESTION: He has to go.

SECRETARY KERRY: -- because he is the magnet, and you cannot stop all of this with him there.

QUESTION: Probably the most effective fighting force against ISIL have been the Kurds. Is this the time to think about recognizing a Kurdish state?

SECRETARY KERRY: No. No, it's not the time. It's distinctly not the time for a lot of different reasons. We need to take one thing at a time here, and I think President Barzani understands that, which is why he helped in the creation of this new government in Baghdad. The Kurds joined into that effort. They realized it was important to be unified and concerted in this effort against ISIL, and that would be very disruptive with respect to the coalition.

QUESTION: The Washington Post had a story this week that our ties with Turkey have really frayed. They actually say they are crumbling. Has that relationship --

SECRETARY KERRY: No, they're not crumbling, but it would be disingenuous not to suggest there haven't been some tensions over this question of what exactly is Turkey prepared to do in order to help on some of the fundamentals. Now, I think we've made progress on that, and General Allen has been in the region. He's been meeting with him. They have committed to a number of different important efforts within the coalition -- training and helping with respect to humanitarian assistance.

But they have a legitimate -- they have a concern. Their concern is Assad, and they view Assad as a significant component of ISIL in a sense because of his degree of attracting people there. They also have a problem with the PKK, the Kurdish terrorists within Turkey itself, and it's complicated as a result. So they want to know that the strategy going forward is fully thought out, fully articulated, clear to them, and one that they can buy into. And we're working on that.

QUESTION: You are going to China next week. One point I'm sure that will come up when you're there and probably when the President is there too, is the Chinese seem to be retreating on their commitments to Hong Kong for autonomy and free elections. What message are you going to deliver on that issue when you're in China?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, we've delivered the message. I mean, we've already delivered the message publicly, and we obviously are for democracy. We want people to have the right to vote. At the same time, we understand that if people are blocking streets and if they're engaging in civil disobedience – we have our own approaches to civil disobedience here in our country. You need to sort of recognize that if you're engaged in civil disobedience, there are consequences. But we support the dialogue. We want them to come together. We'd like to see it resolved as carefully as possible.

QUESTION: Let's talk just a minute of something else about China, and that is North Korea. Are they being helpful as far as providing intelligence as to what's happening there? It's been really weird. Are the Chinese being helpful?

SECRETARY KERRY: Yeah, the Chinese are being helpful. They've taken measures way beyond where they were a year ago. When I went to visit last spring, we engaged in a discussion where they agreed to step up their efforts with the North, and they have. They've actually reduced the amount of jet fuel going into the country. They've put limitations on trade going into the country. They've had at least five visits, maybe six – five, I think, with President Park of South Korea. They haven't met once with Kim Jong-un. They have had --

QUESTION: Do you have any sense of what's going on in the North?

SECRETARY KERRY: We do. We think that Kim Jong-un is trying to consolidate. He's always – he's got concerns about what's happening with respect to the human rights accountability and expose of his country. His economy is not great. They're concerned about the South, if there were a reconciliation, sort of engulfing them. And there are other concerns that he has, obviously – what's happening with the elites in this country, what's happening with the control of the military and so forth.

My judgment is that – and this is a Chinese judgment too – that there's an uncertainty still as to where he wants to go, what he wants to do. The hope of the Chinese is that we could get back to Six-Party Talks sooner rather than later. Our hope is likewise.

QUESTION: Right.

SECRETARY KERRY: We could do so, but we're not going to do it just for the sake of talking. We want to know that North Korea is prepared to discuss the denuclearization. We can come back to those talks, and we've offered all kinds of alternative realities to the North that if they did come back and engage in denuclearization, there is a path by which they could receive, ultimately, a normal working relationship with the rest of the world and economic engagement and other things that would be enormously helpful.

QUESTION: You mentioned Russia and Ukraine a moment ago, and I think Americans are a little bit unsure of our Russia-Ukraine policy, and it seems that sanctions alone aren't going to secure Ukraine. Have we basically given up, or is there little chance of any diplomacy with Putin?

SECRETARY KERRY: I met with Lavrov in Paris a week and a half, two weeks ago. We talked about various approaches. There is a Minsk agreement in place. It has a timetable for certain things to be done by a certain period of time in December. We're concerned that the recent Russian statement about supporting the separatist elections on November 2nd – that that's outside of the Minsk agreement and we would not view those as legitimate, and that could be problematic. But

they just got a gas deal in the last 24 hours between Ukraine and Russia. There has been some indication of troops moving away and of some reduction of violence, but it's very start and stop. It's not sufficient yet to satisfy anybody, and I think we're concerned.

But the sanctions have held. The sanctions are having an impact. The ruble is at the lowest level it's been since – against the euro since the euro was introduced in 1999. They've spent billions of dollars trying to support the ruble. Oil is down, hovering in the low 80s, somewhere in that vicinity. That has a profound impact on the Russian budget and the Russian economy. Their GDP is going backwards, not forwards growth. And so they have some serious challenges.

Our desire is to see the full implementation of the Minsk agreements and move to de-escalate the confrontation which we don't think is doing anybody any good. Ukraine should not be fought over in the way that Putin appears to believe it has to be. We believe it can associate with West, with East, can be a strong relationship with Russia and a strong relationship with Europe and could be a bridge between the two. But President Putin really needs to decide that he wants to respect the sovereign rights of the people of Ukraine to make that decision for themselves, and to work with us in a constructive way rather than to attack the norms of behavior and the standards which have guided us ever since World War II.

QUESTION: Secretary Kerry, thank you. We've covered a lot today and we really appreciate it.

SECRETARY KERRY: Likewise.

6. U.S. Envoy Pressman at U.N. Debate on Peacekeeping (10-31-2014)

Remarks by Ambassador David Pressman, U.S. Alternate Representative to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs, at a Fourth Committee Debate on Peacekeeping

Thank you, Mr. Chair. We also extend our deepest thanks to Undersecretaries General Ladsous and Haq for their briefings to this committee.

UN peace operations now operate in a wide variety of environments, helping to deny space to extremist organizations in Mali, promoting stability in Lebanon amid a fractured and violent Middle East, and sheltering vulnerable civilians in South Sudan – a country ravaged once again by conflict. UN operations are also on the offensive against recognized belligerent forces with tools like the Force Intervention Brigade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We are particularly conscious of the extraordinary challenges faced so bravely by UN peacekeepers. They confront difficult terrain, rainy seasons and unbearable heat; they have watched peace agreements unravel and elections be delayed; they have also opened their doors to civilians, provided life-saving assistance and offered hope to hundreds of thousands. One hundred and four peacekeepers have lost their lives this year, some from direct attacks, as we saw last week in Mali and in Darfur. Peacekeepers have faced armed kidnappers in the Golan Heights, Ebola in West Africa, and the use of landmines and improvised explosives in Mali. Their tenacity and their commitment are inspiring. And yet, while we honor the heroism and dedication of our peacekeeping troops, police and civilian staff, we recognize that UN operations must become more effective, more efficient, and more impactful.

The UN's tools and capabilities have not kept pace with the demands that we have placed on UN peacekeeping. As Undersecretaries-General Ladsous and Haq pointed out, UN peace operations are

under the most severe strain they have faced since the UN was founded: multiple, simultaneous crises are driving the demand for peacekeepers to an all-time high, in highly complex operating environments that are, to say the least, difficult to manage. UN operations have suffered from poor planning, slow deployment, weak leadership, competing chains of command – both formal and informal – as well as capability gaps, and uneven commitments to implement mandates, especially when it comes to protection of civilians.

But we know that just as serious and severe as the challenges are that we confront, so too are the opportunities that we must seize. We welcome the Secretary-General's announcement of a much-needed and comprehensive review of UN peace operations, and agree on the need for a clear-eyed look at the gap between the ambitions of today's peacekeeping missions and the ability to deliver on those promises. The timing is also right, coming nearly 15 years since the Brahimi Report helped us reassess and improve on peacekeeping operations of an earlier era. This upcoming review must be comprehensive, looking at the full spectrum of activities, including peacebuilding, special political missions, and the activities and strengths of other UN agencies, including the UN country team. And to realize genuine reforms, the UN itself must be frank about institutional obstacles, in addition to gaps in resources and gaps in political will.

We hope the review will identify ways to improve and accelerate how the UN makes the most of talent worldwide – political, military, civilian and police – and reform force generation into a strategic approach to finding the best and brightest for all missions. Rapid deployment, as we know, is critical, a challenge we have seen all too well in the UN missions in Mali, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan. It has been 10 months since the Security Council authorized an emergency increase in troops to stem the violence in South Sudan, and yet the mission is still not at full strength. In Mali, a year and a half after the UN assumed authority from the AU, the mission is only at 74% of its full operational capacity. In the Central African Republic, Special Representative of the Secretary General Gaye reported earlier this month that MINUSCA is at 65% of its military strength and 49% of civilian capabilities some seven months after the mission was authorized. These timelines must shrink because peoples' lives and peace hangs in the balance.

We also know that many UN operations deploy into complex environments, and increasingly to places where there is no "peace" to keep. These operations are essential and they must succeed. To do so, peacekeepers must have the right skills and the right training to deal with the threats to themselves and to civilian populations. That can be as simple as increased mobility or as modern as counter-IED capacities – along with the right equipment and technology to carry out their critical mandates. In Mali, we are pleased that a new information fusion cell and Unmanned Unarmed Aerial Vehicles are helping to identify and mitigate asymmetric threats in the north, where extremists and traffickers operate with impunity. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, MONUSCO is working jointly with the Congolese armed forces to neutralize armed groups in the east of the country that carry out violence against civilians, commit heinous abuses, displace entire communities, and recruit and use child soldiers. And the Ebola outbreak in West Africa has shown us all the intense and urgent need for fail-safe medevac capabilities. And all countries must do more in this respect.

The comprehensive peace operations review should also address how the UN matches the right troop contributors with the appropriate skills and capabilities, to each mission's needs.

It is also essential for peacekeepers to operate under a common doctrine, and the United States welcomes the work that DPKO and Member States have undertaken to develop peacekeeping doctrine, such as the manuals for military specialties common in UN peacekeeping operations and the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping.

We are heartened that the Office of the Director for Peacekeeping Strategic Partnerships is fully operational, and stress the importance of empowering that office to allow the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support to address the systemic issues and gaps that affect uniformed personnel serving in peacekeeping missions. Any organization operating in complex environments benefits from oversight and independent assessment of vulnerabilities. So too will UN peacekeeping.

Finally, as you are all aware, many missions have a mandate to protect civilians, this is a priority for us and for many of you. It is at the core of what the UN is. Too many missions struggle to make this mandate operational, as we have seen in the Office of Internal Oversight Services report, peacekeeping missions routinely fail to use force to protect civilians under attack. Moreover, the alarming OIOS report highlighted that troop contingents sometimes refused to follow orders from their commanders to protect civilians. For UN peacekeeping to be credible, this must stop. The OIOS findings underlie a major structural issue within the architecture of peacekeeping missions: while every military knows that command and control is essential for the effective performance of one's mission, in UN missions, there are too often two chains of command – one back to capital and one within the mission to DPKO. The OIOS recommended that incidents of indiscipline be reported to DPKO, but reporting alone will not solve the problem of “disunity of command” – the new peace operations review will need to address this structural impediment and propose ways to fix it. When civilians are facing imminent risk, peacekeepers have a responsibility to act. The UN should never be a bystander to crimes that shock the conscience. When the Security Council gives peacekeepers a mandate to protect civilians, we should all expect them to do just that. It is critical to stopping the cycles of violence and retribution that undermine peace; and it is how the world judges the work of the United Nations. We have to get this right.

The review provides an important opportunity to identify ways the UN and member states can strengthen their commitment to this crucial imperative.

To the brave men and women in the field today, wearing blue helmets, confronting unimaginable threats – the United States salutes your courage and contribution to a better, more just, more stable, and yes, more peaceful world.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7. Russian Air Maneuvers over Europe Pose Risk, Official Says (10-31-2014)

By Nick Simeone
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2014 – Russian military aircraft are continuing to fly stepped-up maneuvers over European airspace in what a Pentagon spokesman today called a potential risk to security and civilian aviation.

Pentagon Press Secretary Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters that NATO had tracked Russian fighter jets, long-range bombers and tanker aircraft over the Baltics, the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean today, and that the United States is watching the Russian air activity very closely.

“We certainly don't see these increased flights and activity as helpful to the security situation in Europe,” Kirby said, adding that they risk further escalating tensions between Moscow and the West, already heightened because of Russia's intervention in Ukraine.

“They also, quite frankly, could pose just a potential risk to civil aviation, just in the sheer number of and size of and scope of these flights,” he added.

NATO Planes Scramble

Over the past few days, NATO planes have scrambled in response to more than 20 Russian aircraft, including strategic bombers and tankers, conducting military maneuvers in international airspace over Europe in what the alliance has characterized as an unusual level of air activity.

Yesterday, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg described it as a pattern of increased Russian air activity along NATO’s borders. “So far this year, it has been over 100 intercepts of Russian aircraft,” he said. “That’s more than three times as much as we had during the whole of last year.”

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8. Pentagon Leaders Discuss Progress against ISIL (10-30-2014)

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30, 2014 – Defense Department leaders today discussed the progress made against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Iraq and Syria as implementation of the broader comprehensive strategy in the Middle East continues.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, talked about progress and strategy during a Pentagon news conference.

Hagel began the news conference by highlighting the recent transfer of two NATO bases – Camp Leatherneck and Camp Bastion -- to Afghan security forces as part of “significant progress” in Afghanistan. He praised U.S. forces for their service in Afghanistan, as well NATO partners, for their contributions.

“I also want to thank our International Security Assistance Force partners for what they’ve done,” he said, “and in particular, the Afghan national security forces as they have continued to make progress -- significant progress in defending their country.”

Turning to Iraq, the defense secretary said he spoke with Iraqi Defense Minister Khaled al-Obeidi last week about Iraqi force preparations to take the offensive against ISIL.

Gains in Northern and Central Iraq

“Over the past week, we’ve seen Iraqi and Kurdish forces begin to do that,” Hagel said. “And they’ve made some gains in both northern and central Iraq. Their initial progress is encouraging, but these are just first steps ... in what we have said will be a long and difficult multiyear effort against ISIL by the local Iraqi forces on the ground with support from the U.S, as well as coalition partners.”

Tomorrow, Hagel said, the U.S. Army’s 1st Infantry Division headquarters will take command in Baghdad, coordinating all U.S. forces in Iraq.

“But our military campaign is only one part of the broader comprehensive strategy required to defeat ISIL,” he said, “choking off its resources and recruits, and supply lines and de-legitimizing its murderous ideology are just as important as Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al Abadi’s efforts to build an inclusive Iraqi government that must earn the trust and confidence of the Iraqi people.”

The Future of Syria

Hagel said the realities of ISIL controlling vast areas of Syria and Iraq are forcing a coalition of more than 60 countries to come together to deal with this “immediate threat.”

“The future of Syria,” he said, “which the nations of the Middle East have a significant investment in that stability, is going to require all elements, not only of our government, but all of the countries in the Middle East and others working together to find a solution to bring peace in Syria, to stabilize that region of the world.”

Officials constantly are assessing, adapting and working through different options, Hagel said, because the situation is complicated and long-term, and there are no short-term easy answers to it.

“That’s why we meet so often on this issue,” he said. “This is why we are building, and continue to build, an effective coalition in the Middle East to deal with these issues.”

Training and Equipping Moderate Opposition Update

The chairman was asked to provide an update on the status of the department’s program to train and equip the Syrian moderate opposition.

“The command-and-control apparatus is in place,” Dempsey said. “The sites have been selected, and the reconnaissance conducted to determine what infrastructure we’ll need to accomplish the mission.”

Coalition partners are beginning to contribute trainers to the efforts, he added, though the recruiting and vetting has not yet begun.

Expanding Mission Area in Iraq

Dempsey discussed the possibility of expanding the train-advise-assist mission of U.S. forces in Iraq, currently oriented around Irbil and Baghdad, to include Anbar province.

“There’s three components to the train-advise-assist mission,” he explained. “Initially, the Iraqi security forces, and I include in that the Kurdish peshmerga forces, ... mostly oriented around Baghdad and Irbil, and then there’s the issue of the tribes and trying to find a way to ... enable them.”

Also, Dempsey said, a program is in place to begin to restore some offensive capability and mindset to Iraqi security forces. “We need to think about how to do that with the tribes,” he added. “We also need to make sure that the Iraqi security forces are not spread out in ways that prevent them from supporting each other.”

Dempsey pointed to areas such as al-Asad, and Iraqi units such as the 7th and 9th Iraqi army divisions, which he said are “somewhat isolated.”

The Iraqi security forces, he said, need help with planning and executing and with linking up groups that are isolated. "And then," he said, "I think that becomes a platform for reaching out to the tribes."

The third component, Dempsey said, is the national guard concept, which -- if the Iraqi government takes a decision to form it and passes a law -- probably would begin to be implemented in 2015.

"You need all three of those, eventually," the chairman said. "Right now, we're focused on the Iraqi security forces."

Biographies:

[Chuck Hagel](#)

[Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey](#)

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[Special Report: Operation Inherent Resolve - Targeted Operations against ISIL Terrorists](#)

[Department of Defense Press Briefing by Secretary Hagel and General Dempsey](#)

[Pentagon: Iraqi Forces Make Gains against ISIL](#)

9. Nuclear Security Agency Director Pledges Renewed Focus (10-30-2014)

By Jim Garamone

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30, 2014 – The National Nuclear Security Administration, which maintains the nation's nuclear weapons, must reinvigorate its focus for this crucial deterrent capability, the agency's director said here yesterday.

Speaking at a Defense Writers Group breakfast, Frank G. Klotz acknowledged that there are issues associated with the management of the nuclear enterprise that must be fixed.

Nuke Stockpile Safe

But despite these issues, said Klotz, a retired Air Force lieutenant general who has been in charge of the National Nuclear Security Administration for six months, the bottom line is that the agency's Stockpile Stewardship Program is able to assess the health and safety and the security of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

The director gave a bit of history to put the administration's problems in perspective.

The United States voluntarily put in place a moratorium on nuclear explosive testing in 1992 – a moratorium observed by four successive presidents from both political parties. At the time, Klotz said, there were those who believed it was impossible to ensure these fearsome weapons would work without periodic testing. The agency had to have the level of development for diagnostic tools, test facilities and the high-performance computers to conduct a stewardship program.

"Guess what?" he said. "We did."

Challenges Remain

But challenges remain, Klotz said. “My generation came of age in the Cold War, when nuclear deterrence and our nuclear deterrent forces were center stage,” he added. “At the end of the Cold War, it was almost as if we had all heaved a sigh of collective relief and said ‘Thank goodness we don’t have to worry about that any more.’”

At the same time, he said, the focus of the U.S. national security departments shifted to conflicts in the Balkans, in the Middle East and to the issue of combating terrorism across the globe. There were more pressing spending priorities, and money to maintain the nuclear enterprise just was not there.

“As a result, the attention, the focus and the resources that were given to our nuclear deterrent forces were not what they were in the past,” Klotz said.

“Quite frankly, we lost focus,” he told the defense writers. “The situation we find ourselves in 20 years later is we reinstituted that focus and we stepped up to making the types of investments we need to make in order to continue to ensure this part of our national security policy ... is able to function the way it is supposed to.”

Klotz said the agency simply has to do a better job managing capital projects.

Multifaceted Agency Mission

Klotz stressed that his organization does more than the nuclear stockpile mission. “We also have extraordinarily important missions with respect to nuclear nonproliferation and trying to promote ... safety and security across the United States and the globe,” he said.

The agency also has responsibility for emergency response to a radiological or nuclear incident, so NNSA personnel continually train and prepare teams at home and abroad, and the administration has a special responsibility for naval reactors.

Doing all these missions requires focus, the administrator said, but he added that the people of the agency are ready for all of their missions.

Biographies:

[Frank G. Klotz](#)

Related Sites:

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